



Health

Roger Bailey  
General Manager  
Warrumbungle Shire Council  
info@warrumbungle.nsw.gov.au

Our ref H21/254214

Dear Mr Bailey

I am writing about the status of water fluoridation in Warrumbungle Shire Council's public water supplies.

NSW Health has been working with Council since 2018 to develop and implement a plan to see fluoride returned to the water supplies in Coonabarabran, Baradine, Binnaway, Mendooran and Coolah. I understand that Council staff have been working closely with NSW Health and engineering consultant Hunter H2O to plan a return to fluoridation.

NSW Health offers a 100% subsidy covering the capital and associated costs for fluoridation. Council has previously received a subsidy for the installation of five fluoridation systems. NSW Health may also provide a subsidy for approved capital upgrades.

I am advised that Council has received a cost estimate of up to \$2.67M to upgrade the five systems. I understand that Council has some capacity to deliver these works using in-house resources in conjunction with other water supply projects. Council has proposed to initially complete the installation of fluoridation equipment and associated works at Coolah using in-house resources. This project is expected to cost in the order of \$130K. Council will then work with NSW Health to review the preferred procurement pathway for the remaining four systems.

NSW Health supports Council's approach and can confirm that Council is eligible to apply for a 100% subsidy payment for the work at Coolah. Subsidy payment is subject to approval of the fluoridation system before procurement and approval of the installed equipment. NSW Health and the Department of Planning and Environment – Water will continue to support Council with these approvals.

I acknowledge Council's commitment to fluoridation in Warrumbungle Shire. The re-commencement of fluoridation will continue to provide consumers with the proven health benefits that have been available to the majority of NSW for over 50 years.

For more information, please contact Josh Tickell, Senior Project Officer Water Unit on (02) 9391 9030 or [josh.tickell@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:josh.tickell@health.nsw.gov.au)

Yours sincerely

Dr Richard Broome  
**A/ Executive Director, Health Protection NSW**  
Dated: 16/02/2022